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Crop Forecast - Season 1954/55

The Deputy Government Statistician (Mr. C. R. Muirson) has issued the appended forecast of the yield of Wheat and Oats for the Season 1954/55. The forecast has been prepared in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and with the assistance of estimates and seasonal reports from the Branch Managers of the Rural and Industries Bank.

Seasonal Conditions

The season opened late with no good general rains until the last week of May which, followed by ideal conditions for planting, enabled farmers to carry out their seeding programmes despite the delayed start. Dry conditions were experienced during June and most centres recorded below average rainfall for the month. The serious position was relieved by heavy and widespread rains beginning about the middle of July, followed by fine weather which resulted in rapid crop growth. During August conditions remained satisfactory but, with the absence of good finishing rains in September and October, crop prospects deteriorated and below average yields must now be expected in most districts.

Wheat for Grain

The current wheat harvest is expected to yield 31.5 million bushels of grain from 3 million acres compared with 39.7 million bushels from 2.9 million acres in the previous season.

Although the area has risen by 100,000 acres it is anticipated that crops will yield only 10.5 bushels per acre, or 3.3 bushels less than the 1953/54 Season's average of 13.8 bushels, being a decline of more than 8 million bushels in the State's harvest.

Oats for Grain

It is estimated that 10 million bushels of oats for grain will be harvested from 900,000 acres compared with 9.6 million bushels from 733,000 in the 1953/54 season. The average yield of 11.1 bushels per acre is two bushels lighter than the previous season's average of 13.1 bushels.

Hay

Wheaten and Oaten Hay is expected to total 230,000 tons from 250,000 acres - an average of 0.9 tons per acre. In the previous season 192,000 tons were cut from 153,000 acres, the average being 1.25 tons per acre.

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Revised estimates will be made towards the end of November.

C. R. MUIRSON,
DEPUTY GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN.

PERTH, W.A.
26th October, 1954.